

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY S. AUGARE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

WHEREAS, the members of the 61st Legislature, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and to otherwise promote the health, safety, and welfare of the American Indian or indigenous peoples, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a landmark declaration outlining the rights of the world's estimated 370 million indigenous peoples, those people native to an area, and outlawing discrimination against them; and

WHEREAS, the declaration by the United Nations supports and reinforces the respect and protection of full self-determination rights by and on behalf of the tribal nations of the United States, as well as the protection of tribal lands and treaties, as a matter of international law and policy and is therefore in the vital interests of all tribal nations of the United States and first nations; and

WHEREAS, the nonbinding declaration expresses the individual and collective rights of American Indians or indigenous peoples, as well as their rights that pertain to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education, and other issues; and

WHEREAS, in considering the rights of American Indians or indigenous peoples everywhere, the declaration also holds that discrimination against American Indians or indigenous peoples should be abolished and that promotion of their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development is vital according to this declaration; and

1 WHEREAS, the declaration expresses the rights of American Indians or indigenous peoples to participate  
2 in the decisionmaking process in matters that would affect their rights.

3  
4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 STATE OF MONTANA:

6 That the 61st Legislature support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 61st Legislature urge the United States to sign the United Nations  
8 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 61st Legislature urge the Governor and Legislature of each state  
10 and Congress to show similar support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Governor  
12 and Legislature of each state, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States  
13 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Ambassador to the United  
14 Nations, and the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

15 - END -